POQUOSON
Island Times

15 cents
Suggested Price

Vol. III No. 3 | Poquoson, Va. | Dec. 3, 1982

News Bits

PTA meeting

The Poquoson Middle School PTA will meet Dec. 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The school band and chorus will perform following the short business meeting. Works done by the art students will be on display.

Santa Shop

The Poquoson High School Distributive Education students will operate their Santa Shop in the Poquoson Shopping Center again this year.

The shop, which will be open Dec. 10th through Dec. 18th, is operated by the students as a means of obtaining business operation and management skills.

Registration

Thomas Nelson Community College has set registration dates for the winter quarter for Dec. 9th and 10th, and Jan 3rd and 4th. Classes will begin on Jan. 5th.

New students should apply as soon as possible by calling 825-2719 or going by the admissions office for an application.

Tree lighting

The annual Kiwanis Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m., Dec. 10, in front of the Municipal Building on Poquoson Avenue.

Santa and his elves will come to the ceremony in a fire truck, bringing candy for the children.

Music will be provided by the eighth grade advanced band and chorus from Poquoson Middle School.

The tree lights will be turned on at about 5 p.m.

Cookbook

A new cookbook compiled by the senior citizens will be on sale at the Poquoson shopping center on fridays and saturdays.

Copies may also be obtained from Wanda Logsdon at 868-6554.

Carol Conover, Fran O'Donahue and Doris Williams (left to right) finish placing decorations on the arbor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Maust at 4402 Chesapeake Ave. in Hampton. The three are members of the Poquoson Garden Club which made the decorations and decorated the home for the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs Christmas home tour. For more information on this and other activities sponsored by the garden club, turn to page 3. (Photo by Scott Snyder)

Few attend education forum

Citizens were asked for input into five areas at the third annual Public Education Forum held at the high school Nov. 30.

Individual group sessions were held on Home-School Communications, 1982-83 School Budget, Instructional Program for Computer Literacy, High School Curriculum, and an Open Forum to discuss topics not included in other sessions.

Although few citizens attended, those who were there offered suggestions and comments to assist the school system in preparing its state required five-year plan.

Getting information home is a problem. It was suggested the schools mail information directly to parents.

All-day kindergarten classes and problems associated with early morning lunch required by kindergarten students who must catch the bus at 10:30 a.m. for the afternoon class were discussed.

It was suggested the school give more publicity to their programs.

Productivity of the half-day staff development program was questioned.

Attendees felt major emphasis should be placed on the computer literacy program as a top priority in budgets for the coming years, realizing that knowledge of computer systems could any day become a prerequisite for graduating students entering technological fields.

It was suggested the school administration look into securing private grants to supplement public funding in this area.

Another high priority budget item was teacher salaries, to be balanced with increased standards.

Also suggested was the addition of an art teacher at the elementary school, and a return of Latin at the middle and high schools.

Computer literacy program

Suggestions were that current programs be expanded, and new programs be added, as quickly as possible.

Recommendations for future programs included history of computers and their subsequent development, impact on society including career opportunities, functional knowledge of essential terminology, understanding how computers work and their limitations, operating procedures, programming and problem solving, ethical and responsible behavior.

A new proposed program, requiring students to complete a minimum college preparatory program or have entered a job entry skill vocational program by the time they graduate, was discussed.

Some attendees voiced concern over the possible increase in the drop-out rate if credit requirements were raised from 18 to 22 credits for college bound students and 20 credits for others.

The new program would require students to finish a minimum college preparatory program defined as the completion of three years of English, World History, United States History, Algebra II, and two years of a foreign language.

Attendees at the forum supported this proposal.

When finalized the proposal will be presented to the school board for their consideration.

The short time given attendees to respond to topics presented at the forum was brought up by the attendees. They felt the choices should be less so that two or three topics could be more thoroughly discussed. It was noted that just when discussions were developing and people were feeling at ease to voice their suggestion and comments, the time was over.

Alcohol consumption by students, and getting the age limit for purchasing alcohol raised again, were presented as problems that need attention.

Attendees addressed concern over whether the drug abuse policy in the school system was adequate, and whether its policies were being followed through.